

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, and 15-19 are pending in the application and the same are rejected. By this Amendment, claim 13 is amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, and 15-19 remain in the application and are presented for review and further consideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 13 because of informalities.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 13 to correct the informalities.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Woodruff et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,607,275. (Examiner's Action, page 2).

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Woodruff discloses a cartridge library having a drum-like member or hub 34, cartridge racks 60, and rack engagement mechanisms 140. The rack engagement mechanisms 140 have an orientation slot 170 formed in its base plate 112. The cartridge racks 60 have an orientation fin 172 for insertably mating with the orientation slots 170 of the rack engagement mechanisms 140. The orientation fins 172 do not mate with the hub 34. Therefore, Woodruff does not disclose the cartridge racks 60 having a latch reciprocal configured to mate with the hub 34. Neither does Woodruff disclose any other structure having a latch reciprocal configured to mate with the hub 34.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claims 1, 8, and 13, include wording that there is at least one object within the rotatable carousel and each of the objects has a latch reciprocal configured to mate with the latching hub. Since Woodruff fails to disclose any structure having a latch reciprocal that mates with the hub 34, Woodruff does not disclose this limitation of Applicant's independent claims 1, 8, and 13.

Furthermore, Woodruff discloses that the rack engagement mechanisms 140 are mounted onto hub 34 and cartridge racks 60 are attached to rack

engagement mechanisms 140. Woodruff does not disclose that the cartridge racks 60 and their orientation fins 172 contact the hub 34. Therefore, Woodruff does not disclose the rack engagement mechanisms 10 being configured to maintain contact between the orientation fins 172 and the hub 34. Neither does Woodruff disclose any other structure acting as a retainer configured to maintain contact between a latch reciprocal and the hub 34.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claims 1, 8, and 13, include wording that there is at least one retainer adjacent each object and each retainer is configured to maintain contact between one of the latch reciprocals and the latching hub. Since Woodruff fails to disclose any structure acting as a retainer configured to maintain contact between a latch reciprocal and the hub 34, Woodruff does not disclose this limitation of Applicant's independent claims 1, 8, and 13.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) as being unpatentable over Woodruff et al., U.S. Patent No.5,607,275 as applied to claims 1, 8 and 13, in further view of Dodd et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,809,263. (Examiner's Action, page 4).

In view of Applicant's arguments and amendments with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 13 being allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining dependent claims are also allowable because they contain all of the limitations of their respective independent claims and further add structural and functional limitations.

The foregoing amendments and arguments are believed to be a complete response to the most recent Examiner's Action.

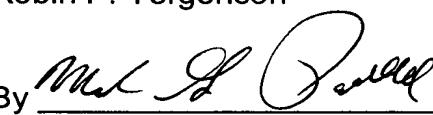
No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no claim, teaching, motivation, or suggestion in any of the cited art, alone or in combination, to produce what Applicant claims.

It is further submitted that the application, as amended, defines patentable subject matter and that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain which would preclude the prompt disposition of this case, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin P. Yergenson

By 
Mark G. Pannell
Reg. No. 40,761

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(719) 260-7900